

Elbert Triangle Park

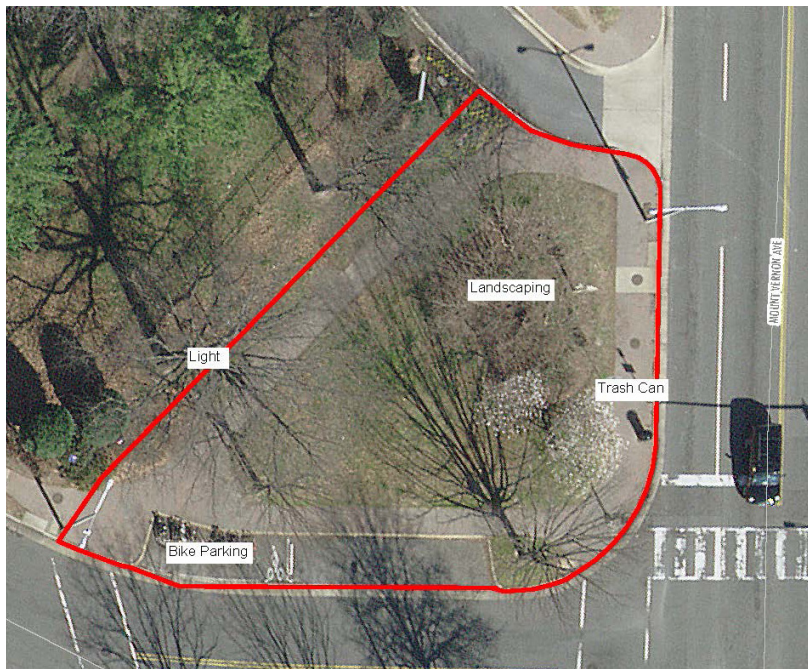
History and Character

Elbert Triangle Square Park is located at 4000 Mount Vernon Avenue in the Arlandria neighborhood.

The park is 0.18 acres and is located across Mount Vernon Avenue from Four Mile Run Park and the Four Mile Run Conservatory. The surrounding neighborhood is diverse and includes numerous apartment complexes and a commercial area along Mount Vernon Avenue. The park features bike parking, a flower bed, shade trees, and a walking path.

The park is bordered by a fence to the west that separates the adjacent privately-owned open space from the park. The Park Vue of Alexandria apartment complex owns and maintains the American and State of Virginia flags.

Existing Conditions Map



Elbert Triangle Park

Which of the following existing park elements would you like to preserve, enhance, or transform?

Element			Element		
Paths			Landscaping		
Number of responses			10		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it	6	67	Preserve it	8	80
Enhance it	3	33	Enhance it	0	0
Transform it	0	0	Transform it	2	20

Element			Element		
Lighting			Open lawn		
Number of responses			9		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
Preserve it	3	27	Preserve it	2	22
Enhance it	6	55	Enhance it	5	56
Transform it	2	18	Transform it	2	22

What is currently NOT in the park that you would like to see there?

1. A rain catch/butterfly sanctuary. Seating. Anything.
2. Play equipment. Plantings
3. Public art of some kind
4. I'm not sure it's the Parks fault but as soon as you turn on Mount Vernon from Glebe, the area announces "bad area". The storefronts could be cleaned up to look nicer and it wouldn't set the theme for what you entering as a run down area.
5. Benches! I was sorry to see the former benches removed. It is a popular spot to wait for the school bus and metro buses.
6. Interesting history about the neighborhood or nature.
7. A nice lawn and landscaping
8. Tables, benches

Community Feedback

In Fall 2018, staff collected community feedback to understand how the park is used and how it could be improved in the future. The following information summarizes what we heard through an online survey and community workshop. Over 400 people responded to the survey in total, 13 of which were specific to Elbert Triangle Park. Staff used the collected information to develop the draft park plans.

In 10 years, I would like this Park to...

(Top three rankings shown, based on a weighted score)

1. *Help reduce environmental impacts from urban surroundings*
2. *Be a place to create social connections with neighbors*
3. *Be a safe place for children to explore*



The image above is an example of a bike repair station, located in Waterfront Park. A bike repair station provides users with all the tools needed to perform basic bike repairs and maintenance. The tools are attached to the stand and the station allows for a bike to be hung while it is being repaired.

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Which of the following existing proposed park elements do you love, like, or not like?					
Recommendation			Recommendation		
Park welcome sign			Bike study		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
5			5		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	3	60	I love it!	2	40
I like it	2	40	I like it	3	60
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	0	0
Recommendation			Recommendation		
Bike amenities			Parklet		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
5			5		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	3	60	I love it!	5	100
I like it	2	40	I like it	0	0
I don't like it	0	0	I don't like it	0	0
Recommendation			Recommendation		
City welcome sign			Seating		
Number of responses			Number of responses		
5			5		
Value	Count	Percent	Value	Count	Percent
I love it!	1	20	I love it!	5	100
I like it	2	40	I like it	0	0
I don't like it	2	40	I don't like it	0	0

In the summer of 2019 RPCA staff collected community feedback on the draft recommendations for improving this pocket park. The following information summarizes what was heard through online surveys and community feedback (see appendix for full results). The city received 716 responses in total, five of which were specific to Elbert Triangle Park.

Based on information from the summer input phase, staff updated the plan to best represent current and future community needs. A major change to the draft park plan is the substitution of traditional Victor Stanley benches to a curved concrete bench intended to encourage social interactions.

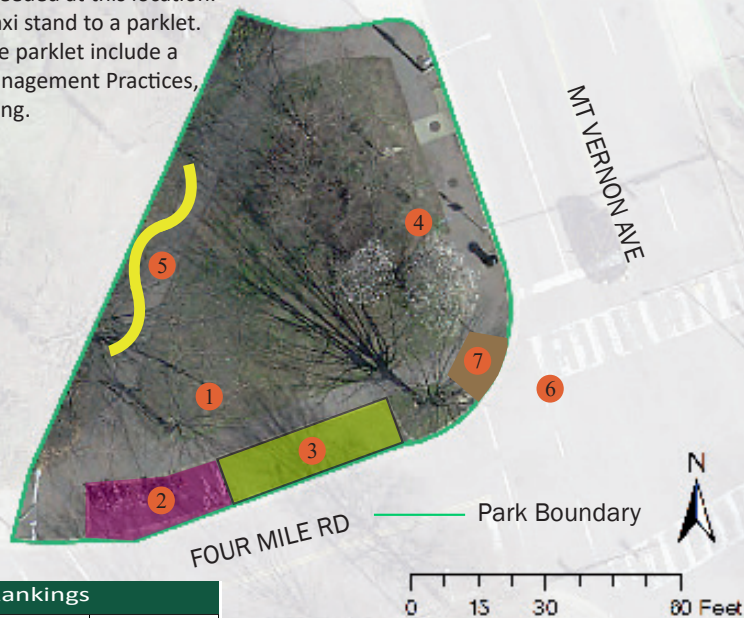
Improvement Recommendations



Elbert Triangle Park

Improvement Recommendations

- 1 **Add a rules and regulations sign**
Add a rules and regulations sign to inform park users of the park's rules.
- 2 **Review bike parking area and add bike amenities**
Conduct outreach with nearby businesses, Taxi Cab Association, and other groups to ensure they are not relying on the space for their uses and let them know the city is considering options to repurpose the site. Consider building a bike shelter, adding a bike fix-it-station, and/or expand the bike parking area as needed based on the results of the bike study.
- 3 **Add a parklet to the taxi stand**
The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services staff studied this taxi stand in 2013 for the Traffic and Parking Board. Findings showed that taxis were not using the space during the course of the study, and half of the taxi stand was converted to bike parking. Conduct a study of the remaining taxi stand to determine if it still needed at this location. If not, convert the taxi stand to a parklet. Potential uses for the parklet include a stormwater Best Management Practices, additional bike parking.
- 4 **Replace the gateway City welcome sign**
Replace the "Welcome to Alexandria" sign along Mount Vernon Avenue to meet the City's wayfinding standards and create a gateway to welcome visitors to the City.
- 5 **Add seating**
Add curved benches to create a social spot for all ages to relax. Curved benches in a linear space allows for greater social interactions.
- 6 **Improve intersection**
Intersection improvements along Mt Vernon Avenue are under review by the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services.
- 7 **Upgrade curb ramps**
Upgrade the ADA access ramp at the Mt Vernon and Four Mile Run Road intersection.



Recommendations and Rankings

Recommendation	Ranking	Cost
Park signage		
Bike study		
Bike amenities		
Parklet		
City welcome sign		
Seating		
Intersection improvements		
Update curb ramps		

DRAFT - WILL BE UPDATED IN FEBRUARY 2020